UNITED NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/RES/45/200
11 March 1991

Forty-fifth session
Agenda item 79 (b)

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Second Committee (A/45/849/Add.3)]

45/200. Commodities

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 1995 (XIX) of 30 December 1964, as amended, 1/ on the establishment of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Conference resolutions 93 (IV) of 30 May 1976 on the Integrated Programme for Commodities, 2/ 124 (V) of 3 June 1979, 3/ 155 (VI), 156 (VI) and 157 (VI) of 2 July 1983, 4/ the Final Act adopted by the Conference at its seventh session, held at Geneva from 9 July to 3 August 1987, 5/ and the Agreement Establishing the Common Fund for Commodities, 6/ which entered into force on 19 June 1989,

---

1/ See resolutions 2904 (XXVII), 31/2 A and B and 34/3.

2/ See Proceedings of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Fourth Session, vol. I, Report and Annexes (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.II.D.10 and corrigendum), part one, sect. A.

3/ Ibid., Fifth Session, vol. I, Report and Annexes (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.79.II.D.14), part one, sect. A.

4/ Ibid., Sixth Session, vol. I, Report and Annexes (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.83.II.D.6), part one, sect. A.

5/ Ibid., Seventh Session, vol. I, Report and Annexes (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.88.II.D.1), part one, sect. A.

6/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.81.II.D.8 and corrigendum.

READEX FICHE

Recalling also its resolutions 41/168 of 5 December 1986, 43/27 of 18 November 1988 and 44/218 of 22 December 1989,

Recognizing that commodity exports continue to play a key role in the economies of developing countries as a whole, as a major source of export earnings, investment and livelihood,

Noting that the changes in Central and Eastern Europe may have important effects on commodity production and trade and that these developments, as well as the potential for expanding South-South trade in commodities, should be fully explored,

Concerned that the problems associated with instability and shortfalls in export earnings are aggravated by commodity prices that, by historical standards, are at generally low levels,

Noting with concern that significant shortfalls in export earnings of commodities have caused serious difficulties in implementing long-term development plans and objectives, as well as in pursuing adjustment efforts,

Concerned about the difficulties experienced by developing countries in financing and implementing diversification programmes,

Bearing in mind the fact that the upstream and downstream linkages between the commodity sector and the national economy need to be strengthened in many developing countries,

Considering that a particularly important role is played by the export of commodities in the economies of the least developed countries,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on world commodity trends and prospects, with particular reference to the situation of commodity-dependent developing countries; 7/

2. Emphasizes the importance of maximizing the contribution of the commodity sector to economic growth and transformation in commodity-dependent developing countries by ensuring that developments in the commodity sector contribute effectively to the generation of growth and development in other sectors of the economy, as well as to the eradication of poverty and, in this context, stresses the importance of the diversification efforts of commodity-exporting developing countries;

3. Urges the increased active participation in and better use of forums of consumers and producers as a means of exchanging information on, inter alia, investment plans, prospects and markets for individual commodities and as a means of facilitating direct contacts among the partners involved, and urges the

---

7/ A/45/442 and Corr.1.

establishment, where appropriate and feasible, of such forums for commodities for which they do not yet exist;

4. Expresses its conviction that supportive international policies to improve the functioning of commodity markets through greater transparency and to create more stable and predictable conditions in commodity trade contribute significantly to the efforts of commodity-dependent developing countries to revitalize their development;

5. Recognizes that, as a means of strengthening the national economies of commodity-dependent developing countries, national and international efforts should, inter alia, be based on the following:

(a) A clear assessment of both the agricultural and the minerals potential and the integration of the commodity sector in the overall development strategy;

(b) A better understanding and strengthened complementarity of industry and market structures and of marketing systems at both national and international levels, having regard to the advantages of regional trade;

(c) Increased access to finance, technologies and markets;

(d) The elaboration and implementation of diversification programmes, including programmes for greater self-sufficiency in food;

6. Also recognizes the urgent need to strengthen efforts to address the grave problem of shortfalls in the commodity-export earnings of developing countries and notes, in this regard, the outcome of the sixteenth special session of the Trade and Development Board, devoted to compensatory financing, and takes note of the decision of the Committee on Commodities of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development that the issue of export-earning shortfalls and compensatory financing should figure as a specific issue for discussion at its next session;

7. Stresses that decisions on diversification are primarily the responsibility of developing countries, and emphasizes, in that context, the need for continued implementation of their diversification programmes, bearing in mind the long-term evolution of market conditions and the linkage between diversification efforts and market access, and invites developed countries, international financial institutions and other relevant organizations to extend financial support to such diversification programmes;

8. Reiterates its conviction that more stable market conditions for commodities would be conducive to the social and economic development of developing countries and could, inter alia, contribute to the international campaign against illicit production of, trafficking in and abuse of narcotic drugs, thus supporting the efforts undertaken by countries to combat such illicit activities;

9. Urges all the parties involved to meet their agreed commitments and to work for a balanced outcome to the multilateral trade negotiations within the Uruguay Round so as to ensure that the successful conclusion of the negotiations

brings about further expansion and liberalization of trade in commodities, taking into account the special and differential treatment for developing countries, as well as all other principles contained in the Ministerial Declaration on the Uruguay Round; 8/

10. Notes the establishment of the Common Fund for Commodities, the voluntary contributions pledged by countries that are members of the Common Fund and the hope expressed by the member countries that further contributions will be forthcoming;

11. Notes also that it is the desire of the members of the Common Fund that countries, particularly major exporters and consumers of commodities, that have not yet ratified the Agreement Establishing the Common Fund for Commodities 6/ should do so as soon as possible;

12. Stresses that international commodity agreements and arrangements can have an important role to play in resolving commodity problems, where they involve the participation of all major producers and consumers and where they are aimed at improving transparency and at better functioning of commodity markets, and, in this context, calls for the implementation of the relevant provisions of the Final Act adopted by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at its seventh session; 5/

13. Urges the Conference at its eighth session to address all aspects of commodity problems in a comprehensive manner, and requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session a report on world commodity trends and prospects, with particular reference to the situation of commodity-dependent developing countries, in the light of the outcome of the eighth session of the Conference, bearing in mind the relevant conclusions of the Committee on Commodities at its fourteenth session;

14. Decides to include the question of commodities in the provisional agenda of its forty-seventh session.

71st plenary meeting
21 December 1990

8/ See GATT, Focus Newsletter, No. 41, October 1986.